

The logo for CONVerge 2019 features a stylized 'C' composed of four overlapping triangles in blue, green, yellow, and orange. The word 'CONVerge' is written in a sans-serif font, with 'CON' in blue and 'Verge' in yellow. The year '2019' is written in blue below 'Verge'.

CONVerge 2019

March 20 - 22 ~ Henderson, NV



College eNVy:
A Promising Future

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Table of Contents

Conference Chairs' Welcome	4
Pre-conference Session	5
Welcome Dinner	6
Breakfast Plenary	7
Luncheon Plenary	8
Breakfast Plenary/Awards Ceremony	9
Conference Schedule At-A-Glance	10
Planning Committee	12
Program Details	13
Award Descriptions	28
Award Recipients	29
Parking Directions	30
Floor Plans	31
Things to Do/Places to Go	32
Notes	34

Conference Chairs' Welcome

Hello and Welcome to CoNVerge 2019!

On behalf of the 2019 planning committee we would like to welcome you to the CoNVerge conference and thank you for your support. Following a very successful first conference in 2016, CoNVerge: College Access and Success for all Nevadans promises to be another informative endeavor for college access and success professionals. This year the conference theme is College eNVy: A Promising Future. This theme was selected because it epitomizes our vision for our students and our state. We felt it was appropriate considering the launch last year of the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program too!

Like the first CoNVerge Conference, we have an amazing program lined up. We think you will be impressed with the caliber of speakers and presenters all of which are Nevadans or have a connection to Nevada. We have purposely selected a wide range of topics that deal with many of the experiences or challenges you may face when working with or trying to help students. We know you would not be here if you did not have a passion for this very important work. We have tried to honor that passion in planning this conference.

It has been our pleasure to work with the planning committee to create this program. We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of our fellow committee members that have worked so hard to put together a program that we are proud to offer to colleagues and partners from around the state. We are grateful to our sponsors, our exhibitors, and especially to Nevada State GEAR UP for their very generous support. Please be sure to stop by their tables and visit with them.

We greatly appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to attend. Hopefully you will have a chance to connect with colleagues, network, share ideas, and learn something new that you can take back and apply to your position and/or program.

Enjoy the conference!

Janet Stake and Daniel Villanueva, Co-chair Conference Planning



Janet Stake



Daniel Villanueva Ph.D.

Pre-conference Session

Yield Theory™

"I began to develop Yield Theory in 1998 as my personal approach to psychotherapy. I have spent the last 16 years, however, revising it, developing it, and teaching it to others. Though I primarily train psychotherapists in Yield Theory, for me, it is more than an approach to the process of counseling; it is a way of life. Yield Theory is a way to connect with others, and it is a way to understand others; but it is also a way for us all to understand our Selves. It is predicated on the fundamental assumption that if we lived every day as another person; not just walk a proverbial mile in his or her shoes, but actually had that person's cognitive functioning, affective capabilities, and life experiences, then we would make every single choice that that person has ever made. Through Yield Theory, judgments end and understanding begins."



*Christian Conte Ph.D.
Yield Theory*

<http://www.drchristianconte.com/yield-theory/>



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and

@CoNVergeNV (Facebook)



Welcome Dinner

Keynote Presenter

Dr. Christian Conte is one of the country's most accomplished mental health specialists in the field of anger and emotional management. A familiar figure on TV and radio, he is also a prolific writer, powerful communicator, and sought-after media expert.

Whether it is in his groups for violent offenders, the classroom, or in front of companies and organizations, Dr. Conte always brings his unique energy, unquenchable passion, and a tremendous sense of compassion to his focus on teaching people about why they do what they do, and how they can use knowledge about themselves and compassion for others to transform their lives.

Dr. Conte is one of only a handful of people who have level V anger management certification, the highest level possible, and he is the creator of "Yield Theory" – a powerful approach to change, combining radical compassion with conscious education – for the effective treatment of anger issues. Dr. Conte currently trains correctional institutions, sports teams, and organizations in the practical application of his Yield Theory Anger Management Program.



Christian Conte Ph.D.

Wednesday, March 20th
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

AMDOT Performance Group

The Alpha Men & Divas of Tomorrow Youth Organization (AMDOT) is a Las Vegas based leadership organization for high school youth. The organization is under the auspices of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Theta Pi Lambda Chapter and the Theta Pi Lambda Foundation. The Theta Pi Lambda Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit, organization established to supply funding for scholarships and some operating expenses for the Theta Pi Lambda Chapter and the Alpha Men and Divas of Tomorrow Youth Organization. The organization was founded in 1995.

The Men of Tomorrow is the male component of the Las Vegas based leadership organization for high school youth, Alpha Men & Divas of Tomorrow (AMDOT) and the Divas are the female component of the group. This service-learning organization is designed to foster the growth of our youth morally, ethically, professionally, and academically through civic engagement, educational enrichment, as well as personal growth initiatives.

Special Thanks to Sean Tory for arranging the performance.



Current Membership: 25

High School Graduation Rate in the last 10 years:
100%

College Acceptance Rate in the last 10 years:
100%

Thursday Breakfast Plenary

Change the System, Not the Student

Monika Mala is the Director of Strategy, Alliance for Complete College America. In this role, Monika serves as the main Complete College America lead to support Alliance state and consortia members. She works closely with each state to guide change, drive momentum and support completion efforts across Game Changer strategies, specifically through advocacy, policy, and coordination of implementation support.

Monika most recently served as the Assistant Director of Access and Opportunities at the University of Nevada, Reno. In this role, she oversaw two federally funded programs, as well as one state funded retention initiative. She worked closely with the Nevada System of Higher Education, the Nevada Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Education to successfully implement grant objectives statewide.

It was her commitment to student success that led her to pursue her PhD in Education with an emphasis in Equity and Diversity. Her dissertation work was focused on the knowledge and skills of Mexican-American students from low-income backgrounds, in hopes to better inform higher education policies and practices.

James R. McCoy is the Co-Creator and Executive Producer of the acclaimed documentary No Greater Odds and currently serves as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the College of Southern Nevada. Since joining the institution in 2003, he has served as the Associate Vice President for Academic Success, as Chair and Lead Faculty for the Department of Communication, and is a tenured Communication Professor. James has also taught at several community colleges in California where he taught many communication courses. Prior to working in academia, he worked in radio broadcasting as a radio morning show host and radio station program director. A highly sought after national keynote speaker and presenter, James often talks about the important work that community colleges do in the United States.

Additionally, James consults for corporations, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions in such areas as communication, workplace culture, leadership development, customer services, conflict management, teaching pedagogy, memorization techniques, public speaking, and an array of other relevant topic areas.



Monika Mala Ph.D.

Thursday, March 21st
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



James McCoy

Thursday, March 21st
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Thank you to our sponsor for this plenary session, OWINN

Luncheon Plenary

The Goal at the End of the Tunnel

Karen Gordon joined the Nevada Department of Education in 2016 and leads statewide efforts to administer the Federal McKinney-Vento Act. In her role as State Coordinator, Karen gathers reliable valid, and comprehensive data on homeless children and youths identified in the State.

Thankful for strong relationships, and working hand-in-hand with internal, external, and community stakeholders, Karen tackles complex problems homeless children and youths experience. Keeping the student's best interest in mind, she works to improve methods for both identification and educational outcomes for this vulnerable and often forgotten population.

Karen holds a multidisciplinary B.A. in Elementary Education, and Special Education, as well as an M.A. in Literacy Studies, and a second M.A. in Educational Leadership from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a member of the Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council by appointment and commission of former Nevada Governor, Brian Sandoval.

Special Guest: Linda K. Fitzgibbons, Nye County School District.



Karen Gordon

Thursday, March 21st
12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.



Breakfast Plenary/Awards Ceremony

Inclusion Starts with I

Dr. Angie Taylor has a long history of excellent leadership, people development and community service. She is the President and Chief Executive Officer for Guardian Quest, Inc., an organization specializing in providing diversity/inclusion, leadership and organizational development training and consulting solutions for educational, governmental, corporate and military clients across North America. In addition to her work speaking, training and coaching, she continues to serve her community. In December of 2014, she was appointed to the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, becoming the first African American to serve in that capacity. In January of 2016, she was elected Board President by her Board colleagues and most recently, she was elected by the citizens in District E to serve a full four-year term, beginning in January 2017. Her colleagues selected her to serve a second term as president through 2017.



Angie Taylor Ph.D.

Friday, March 22nd
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Angie has earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership (PhD), holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and Policy (MPA) and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (BS), all from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her background is in higher education where she completed a storied 20-year career at the University of Nevada. While at Nevada, she served in several senior level leadership positions for 17 years.

Thank you to our sponsor for this plenary session, ACT

Awards Ceremony

CoNVERge is happy to present three "champion" awards to deserving members of the college access and success community. These awards are selected based on nominations submitted on behalf of the recipients. This year we had several amazing nominations. Selecting the top three was not an easy task. We are fortunate to have so many caring individuals that work tirelessly to help our students, families, and their communities. For a description of the eligibility for each award and the biographies of this year's recipients, please see pages 28-29.

Special Guest: Miguel Davila, Casework Manager and Regional Representative for U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Thank you to our awards sponsor The College Access Group

Schedule-at-a-Glance



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH	TIME	ROOM
Pre-Conference/Conference Check-in	12:00-1:00 p.m.	NSE Rotunda
Pre-Conference Session: Dr. Conte-Yield Theory	1:00-5:00 p.m.	NSE 105
Exhibitor/Sponsor Set-up/Time	4:00-7:00 p.m.	NSE Rotunda
Conference Check-In	5:00-7:00 p.m.	NSE Rotunda
First showing <i>No Greater Odds Movie</i>	5:15-6:45 p.m.	NSE Rotunda
Welcome Dinner/Plenary Session	7:00-9:00 p.m.	RSC Ballroom
THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST	TIME	ROOM
Conference Check-In & Exhibitor/Sponsor Time	7:00-8:00 a.m.	NSE Rotunda
Breakfast/Plenary Session	7:30-9:30 a.m.	RSC Ballroom
BREAKOUT SESSION A		
<i>Strengthening College Pathways for CTE Students</i>	9:45-11:00 a.m.	NSE 225
<i>Driving up STEM Appeal: Technology Access for All</i>		NSE 224
<i>College Credits While in High School</i>		NSE 214
<i>College Access & Individuals with IDD</i>		NSE 213
BREAKOUT SESSION B		
<i>Nevada Promise at CSN - An Overview</i>	11:45-12:30 p.m.	NSE 225
<i>The Road to College: It's a Family Affair</i>		NSE 224
<i>Using ACT Data to Increase Student Success</i>		NSE 214
<i>College Access for Minority Males in Nevada</i>		NSE 213
Luncheon/Plenary Session	12:45-2:15 p.m.	RSC Ballroom
BREAKOUT SESSION C		
<i>School-to-Career Pedagogy</i>	2:30-3:45 p.m.	NSE 225
<i>Serving Rural Communities</i>		NSE 224
<i>A Student-Centric Approach to First-Gen Success</i>		NSE 214
<i>Is a College Education Still Worth It?</i>		NSE 213
BREAKOUT SESSION D		
<i>Epic Steps to Veteran Victory on your Campus</i>	4:00-5:15 p.m.	NSE 225
<i>Nevada's Gateway Course Success Initiative</i>		NSE 224
<i>Combating Math Anxiety</i>		NSE 214
<i>Who Does the Committee Really Want?</i>		NSE 213

Exhibitor/Sponsor Time/Raffle	5:15-5:45 p.m.	NSE Rotunda
Second showing <i>No Greater Odds</i> Movie	5:45-7:15 p.m.	NSE Auditorium
FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND	TIME	ROOM
Conference Check-In & Exhibitor/Sponsor Time	7:00-8:00 a.m.	NSE Rotunda
Breakfast/Plenary Session/Awards Ceremony	8:00-9:30 a.m.	RSC Ballroom
BREAKOUT SESSION E		
<i>"No Greater Odds" Film Roundtable</i>	9:45-11:00 a.m.	NSE 225
<i>DACA/Undocumented Resources of Nevada State</i>		NSE 224
<i>Apply NSHE: A System Approach to College Access</i>		NSE 214
<i>Librarian/Faculty Collaboration for Diversity!</i>		NSE 213
BREAKOUT SESSION F		
<i>Freezing Verification Melt for Low Income Students</i>	11:15-12:30 p.m.	NSE 225
<i>Barriers of First Generation College Students</i>		NSE 224
<i>"To STEM or Not to STEM"...That is the Question...</i>		NSE 214
<i>Impacting Youth through Career Exploration</i>		NSE 213
Exhibitor/Sponsor Time/Raffle	12:30-1:00 p.m.	NSE Rotunda
GEAR UP Ambassador Meeting	12:30-1:00 p.m.	NSE 216
Take Away Lunch	1:00 p.m.	NSE Rotunda

Attention school district personnel – Attend CoNVerge and earn 1 CE credit!



NEVADA STATE
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The CoNVerge Conference has been approved for 1 CE credit! In order to receive credit, you must sign in and attend on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and attend one of the two showings of the movie, *No Greater Odds*. You do not have to attend the pre-conference session to earn the credit.

NSE = Nursing, Science, and Education Building
RSC= Rogers Student Center Building
 Go to Page 31 for building maps!

Planning Committee

Co-Chairs

Janet Stake

Academic and Student Affairs Officer, NSHE

Food, Speakers & Entertainment, Promotion, Accounting & Budget, Schedule & Program

Daniel Villanueva, Ph.D.

GEAR UP Ambassador Coordinator, NSHE

Space, Facilities, & Parking, Schedule, Presentations

Members

Desirae Acosta

UNR Program Coordinator, Nevada First In The Pack

Social Media

Ellen Houston

UNR Director of Upward Bound

Speakers & Entertainment, Pre-Conference

Tammy Bolen

GEAR UP Nevada Director

Accounting & Budget

Nick Mathews

NSC GEAR UP Ambassador

Space, Facilities, & Parking, Schedule & Program, Volunteer Recruitment, Food

Lori Botelho

GEAR UP Nevada Assistant Director

Accounting & Budget, Awards

Evelyn Morales

Director of Programs, Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas

Promotion, Schedule & Program

Sebern Coleman

UNLV Graduate Recruitment & CRM Specialist

Presentations, Hotels, & Transportation, Vendors

Karen Pugh

GEAR UP Research Specialist, NSHE

Vendors, Awards, Volunteers

Renee Davis

Director of Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE

Presentations

Gabriela Verdin

GEAR UP Communication Specialist, NSHE

Schedule & Program, Volunteers

Lisa Hamrick

GEAR UP SPIF at Pahrump Valley High School

Presentations

Chris Westin

UNR Program Counselor, Trio Scholars Program

Speakers & Entertainment, Pre-Conference

If you would like to join the next CoNVerge Conference planning committee, e-mail Janet Stake: jstake@nshe.nevada.edu

Program Details

Wednesday, March 20

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference/Conference Check-in

NSE Rotunda

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Session
Dr. Christian Conte - Yield Theory

Must have pre-registered - NSE Room 105

4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Snack in NSE Rotunda

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Conference Check-in

5:15 - 6:45 p.m.

First Showing *No Greater Odds* Movie

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Welcome Dinner/Plenary Session
Speaker: Dr. Christian Conte

RSC Ballroom

First Raffle @ 9:00 p.m. - Must be present to win!

Like and Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

@CoNVerge_Nevada (Twitter)

and

@CoNVergeNV (Facebook)



Thursday, March 21st

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Conference Check-in & Exhibitor/Sponsor Time

NSE Rotunda

7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast/Plenary
*Speakers: Dr. Monika Mala &
James McCoy*

RSC Ballroom

9:45 - 11:00 a.m.

Block A Breakout Sessions

A1

Location: NSE 225

Strengthening College Pathways for CTE Students

In 2018, CTE College Credit at CSN awarded over 1700 high school students free college credit to increase academic opportunities and obtain college credit in strategic pathways that lead toward meaningful CSN degrees/certificates. In this session, attendees will:

1. Gain an understanding of CTE College Credit
2. Learn about programmatic efforts to support student success.
3. Become aware of how you can support the work being done through the partnership
4. Become aware of program tools and resources available

Presented by: **Somer Rodgers**, CTE College Credit Specialist, CSN
Leticia Wells, CTE College Credit Assistant Director, CSN



A2

Location: NSE 224

Driving up STEM Appeal: Technology Access

Access to special tools (e.g., 3-D printer, scientific equipment) is sporadic for K-12 schools, and often these tools are used infrequently due to lack of training and short-term projects. Rather than equipping each school with specialized equipment, an alternative option is to create a mobile unit that could serve a large number of schools over the entire year. The MSTS Mobile STEM Lab addresses two major problems (i.e., inadequate training and inefficient equipment usage) by having a knowledgeable worker who can ensure the equipment is utilized to capacity and maintained properly. An enclosed trailer was fitted with interior storage to house a variety of supplies for science and engineering projects. Equipment was chosen based on input from school district personnel and other stakeholders. University engineering students designed the trailer interior and came up with solutions to keep all equipment secure during transport. In addition, a couple of graduate students were trained in using the equipment, and they practiced instructing others on how to use the equipment. We describe the challenges faced in starting the program and the initial success in making modern technology accessible to multiple schools.

Presented by: **Dr. Erica Marti**, Environmental Engineer (specializing in water reuse research), UNLV
Monica Johnson, Graduate Assistant, UNLV
Paul Oko, Graduate Assistant, UNLV

A3

Location: NSE 214

College Credits While in High School

All the Jumpstart classes are taught:

- at the high school campus
- during the regular, normal high school day, AND
- courses are taught by "college accredited" high school teachers

The Jumpstart Concurrent Enrollment classes offered at the high schools are of the same high quality as the courses offered on the campus of CSN. Students are held to the same standards and are exposed to the same rigorous academic challenges as students on campus, but are able to stay in their own supportive high school environment. Students are better prepared for college by gaining exposure to college expectations and workload. By earning college credit while still in high school, students have a "Jump Start" to college!

The Jumpstart Program provides high school teachers with ongoing professional development led by CSN college faculty. The interaction between CSN and the participating high schools fosters strong local networks among secondary and postsecondary educators.

Presented by: **Nora Mirabal**, Assistant Director Jumpstart Concurrent Enrollment Program, CSN

A4

Location: NSE 213

College Access & Individuals with IDD

Data from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP, 2012) show that individuals with intellectual disability (ID) have the highest rates of unemployment and underemployment. Historically, individuals with ID are given minimal choices for postsecondary opportunities, and includes working in sheltered workshops earning sub-minimum wages (Brown & Kessler, 2014). With the reauthorization of The Higher Education Opportunity Act (2008), access to postsecondary college opportunities for students with ID has increased in recent years. Across the United States, there are 264 postsecondary education (PSE) college programs (thinkcollege.net). Project FOCUS at UNLV is a two-year, non-degree certificate program that focuses on inclusive academics, independent living, and employment. Project FOCUS uses the principles of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and person-centered planning in order to reach desired individual outcomes. The objectives for this presentation are: (a) review past literature, along with national and state data, (b) present an overview of PSE programs, (c) discuss Project FOCUS (i.e., admission, expectations, and day-to-day operations), and (d) discuss steps to preparing students with IDD for college.

Presented by: **K. Ryan Wennerlind**, Associate Director, Project FOCUS
Brigitte Sison, Project Coordinator, Project FOCUS
Rory Carmer, Educational Coach, Project FOCUS
Carina Law, Educational Coach, Project FOCUS
Rebeca Candel, Educational Coach, Project FOCUS

11:15 - 12:30 p.m.

Block B Breakout Sessions

B1

Location: NSE 225

Nevada Promise at CSN - An Overview

Join us to learn about the Nevada Promise Scholarship Law. We will share information on how CSN has implemented this exciting college access program and its impact on the community.

Participants will learn about how mentoring and community service opportunities can help more than 10,000 applicants and hundreds of recipients to complete the Promise Scholarship requirements and better yet, how they can be involved in the process!

Presented by: **Carolina Clavel**, Mentoring & Service Manager for the Office of Inclusive Learning & Engagement, CSN
Roberta Palomo, Nevada Promise Coordinator, CSN

B2

Location: NSE 224

The Road to College: It's a Family Affair

The Road to College: It's a Family Affair, is intended for teachers, counselors, administrators, student services staff, program directors, college/university leaders, and community partners. Based on research gathered from former and current undergraduate students, this session will provide concrete ideas for helping families become active participants on the road to higher education. This will include an overview of attitudes toward family engagement, types of familial support students wish they would have received, strategies for improving interactions between stakeholders and families, and proactive ways to engage families earlier in the college going process. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a hands-on activity regarding the ways in which educational history can impact family engagement. It is our hope that participants leave with a holistic, streamlined approach to engaging families in the college search process.

Presented by: **Devan Sullivan**, Senior Admission Counselor, UNLV
Devan Harris, Early Outreach Coordinator, UNLV
Laura Hermann, GEAR UP Ambassador, UNLV

B3

Location: NSE 214

Using ACT Data to Increase Student Success

ACT staff will present the 2018 Nevada ACT Graduating Class Profile Report. Integral components of the report include academic achievement, college and career readiness, and career and educational aspirations. Best practices will be discussed regarding the utility of the information gathered on the ACT graduating class profile report and the student's ACT score report. ACT's new ACT Academy program, a free online resource for students to use to increase their knowledge and skills in English, mathematics, reading and science will be demonstrated.

Presented by: **Sue Wheeler**, ACT Senior Account Executive for the State of Nevada



B4

Location: NSE 213

College Access for Minority Males in Nevada

During the 2017-18 school year, the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) fall enrollments were 29,029 for Hispanic students and 7,310 for African American students (IPEDS, 2018). Fall enrollments totaling 36,399 represent approximately one-third of the student enrollments for NSHE. Given that female enrollments outpace male enrollments in NSHE, the number of Nevada's African American and Hispanic male eligible 12th grade high school students who actually enroll into college, persist and graduate from college are untenable. This year's conference theme: College eNVy: A Promising Future, is immensely powerful in that, it represents next generation thinking. In this session, the presenters will review existing literature and research about college access and minority males, facilitate round-table discussions, and challenge participants to create action plans that can be taken back to their schools and the community to be enacted post conference. Come ready to teach and learn.

Presented by: **Kimberly Williams Ph.D.**, Director TRIO Upward Bound Programs, NSC
Anthony Herrera, Assistant Director TRIO Upward Bound Program, NSC

12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Luncheon/Plenary
Speaker Karen Gordon
RSC Ballroom

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Block C Breakout Sessions

C1

Location: NSE 225

School-to-Career Pedagogy

Upon acquiring basic knowledge in a particular subject matter, the learner will enroll in an Internship practicum to apply their learning skills and appreciate their manifestation in a 'real' work setting. An internship Portfolio, composed of 120 hours + a Jobshadowing Report + a discussion of the assigned textbook(s) shall ensue.

Presented by: **Samuel Sarri Ph.D.**, Professor, CSN

C2

Serving Rural Communities

Location: NSE 224

Families living in rural communities face many unique challenges and limitations that families in urban communities do not have. Finding ways to help rural students spread their wings and fly takes a bit of creative thinking, but it can be done!

Presented by: **Michelle Koch**, GEAR UP SPIF, Jackpot Combined School

C3

A Student-Centric Approach to First-Gen Success

Location: NSE 214

Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas works to make college a reality for students in under resourced communities. Starting in 2016, the Scholarship Department of Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas shifted its role from simply distributing funds to taking a more direct approach to supporting student progression in college. After two years since its establishment, the department began to see scholar retention weaken every semester. Based on the retention rate of organization's first cohort entering college, this presentation focuses on the growth of the department in its attempt to proactively support a large dropout rate of first-generation, low-income students. Utilizing one-on-one meeting sessions with students of the scholarship program, the responses provided information as to what areas students need support in and the possible measures the Department needed to conduct in effort to support those measures. In result, the Scholarship Department established the following improvements: the need to dedicate "college success" advisors, implementation of a series of intervention strategies, development of Summer Bridge initiatives, a redefined communication flow through GradSnapp and expansion of its partnerships with NSHE institutions.

Presented by: **Ruby Ortega**, Scholarship Program Manager, Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas
Johnny Dominguez, College Counselor, Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas



C4

Location: NSE 213

Is a College Education Still Worth It?

SB 249, passed in the 2017 Legislature, requires that financial literacy be taught in grades 3-12, with inclusion of instruction about Nevada's College Savings Plans and Scholarship programs. We will simplify the complexities of the programs, the many choices, and align these programs to the new standards so teachers are ready to educate students and families about the benefits of planning ahead for higher education. The proposed financial literacy standards are aligned with helping students understand the importance of saving and financing higher education without graduating with crippling student loan debt.

We will have numerous resources and materials available for participants related to the importance of teaching students about college savings and they will leave with a greater understanding of the requirements of SB249. What's more, attendees will learn about an exclusive new website now available by the Treasurer's Office that will contain financial literacy and college savings resources and curriculum, free for teachers. Many additional resources (grade appropriate) will be shared that support student learning and teacher training highlighting the importance of saving early and often.

Presented by: **Troy Watts**, Marketing Coordinator, Nevada State Treasurer's Office

Be sure to visit our vendors!



4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Block D Breakout Sessions

D1

Location: NSE 225

Epic Steps to Veteran Victory on your Campus

The purpose of this session will be to discuss the solutions and obstacles in serving our student veterans, and the proven steps in becoming the “go-to leader” for building and championing collaborative veteran services and resource partners in your community, influencing your campus, cultivating support, and establishing win-win relationships to promote needed change. These collaborations include developing campus and community partnerships for various veteran programs, promoting veteran employment/internship opportunities, being proactive in joining together leaders in the community to assist student veterans, and building a strong relationship with the VA.

The presentation outline is as follows:

- Improving Certification Payment Processes
- Developing Veteran Victory Support Programs
- Building Campus Collaborations
- Building Community Collaborations
- Advising Student Veterans of America Chapter

In this session, participants will be able to:

1. Share accomplishments and successes.
2. Discuss ongoing struggles to manage and alleviate struggles through collaboration.
3. Connect with “comrades in the field” and return to campus with an arsenal of ideas to solve veteran challenges

Presented by: **Ross Bryant**, Director Military & Veteran Services Center, UNLV
Melissa Barber, Program Coordinator Military & Veteran Services Center, UNLV
Dwayne Gordon, Outreach Coordinator Military & Veteran Services Center, UNLV

D2

Location: NSE 224

Nevada’s Gateway Course Success Initiative

This session will present how the Nevada System of Higher Education is using data to enforce policy implementation related to its Gateway Course Success Project that was initiated in 2014. Enrollment benchmarks for gateway English and mathematics courses have been established in an effort to hold institutions accountable during the implementation process for a Board adopted policy that requires that all degree-seeking students be placed on a pathway to complete gateway English and mathematics within the first year of enrollment. Following the first year of implementation (2016-17), all four-year institutions achieved full-implementation. The System is now in the second phase of the project that will focus on completion data in its continued efforts to support and ensure student success through the use of data.

Presented by: **Theo Meek**, Research Scholar, NSHE
Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE
Linda Heiss, Business Institutional Research, NSHE

D3

Location: NSE 214

Combating Math Anxiety

Participants will learn techniques to combat math anxiety. The focus will be on three active approaches to use when overcome with negative feelings toward math. The first is assembling a team to turn to when feeling anxious or stuck. This team will include teachers, tutors, and a study group. The second approach is how to find math resources to turn to when studying alone. The third approach is using relaxation techniques that can be used daily to help prevent math anxiety and techniques that can be used when feeling anxiety in the moment. We may not be able to cure math anxiety, but we can learn to use different techniques to calm down and be able to think when faced with anxious thoughts.

Presented by: **Deborah Frank**, Math Instructor, CSN

D4

Location: NSE 213

Who Does the Committee Really Want?

Nevada continues to have a critical shortage of medical practitioners and local youth can be the answer to the problem. Medical schools increase in competitiveness each year and applicants need more than just good grades to get in. Many applicants apply to an average of nine schools and take two application cycles before finding success or moving on to Plan B. The application process takes significant time and money. There are a number of factors that can help enhance an application or even overcome some of the challenges in an application which many applicants underestimate. The presenter will highlight factors that can make the difference in getting an acceptance offer versus a rejection. Applicants who can demonstrate such factors as knowing their story, showing grit, exhibiting interpersonal skills, participating in pipeline and mentoring programs can maximize on their talents in the application process. The overall question "Who does the committee really want?" will be answered. Ideas will be shared to help your students save time, money, and heartache. Being better prepared for the application cycle for medical and allied health professions will give them the competitive edge they'll need to succeed.

Presented by: **Tava McGinty-Jimenez**, Director, Office of Admissions at Touro University Nevada

5:15 - 5:45 p.m. Exhibitor/Sponsor Time

Second Raffle @ 5:30 p.m. - Must be present to win!

5:45 - 7:15 p.m. Second Showing No Greater Odds Movie

Friday, March 22nd

7:30 - 8:00 a.m. Conference Check-in & Exhibitor/Sponsor Time

NSE Rotunda

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast Plenary/Awards Ceremony
Speaker: Dr. Angie Taylor

RSC Ballroom

9:45 - 11:00 a.m.

Block E Breakout Sessions

E1

Location: NSE 225

“No Greater Odds” Film Roundtable

No Greater Odds is a powerful documentary that follows the inspirational stories of five community college students at the College of Southern Nevada. Barbara, Carlos, Jaklin, Monique and Tyrone each struggle with complicated family issues, financial difficulties and other personal obstacles as they seek to better their lives and futures through higher education. Each of their stories is unique – and yet, theirs are the stories of millions of students who enroll in community colleges around the nation every year. There, they too can find strength, support – and ultimately, success– as a result of the care and concern of the faculty, staff and administration at their institution.

Following the screening of this nationally acclaimed documentary, the audience will engage in an interactive discussion with the film’s co-creators and producers. Presenters will share key outcomes to understand how “it takes a village” to build community with our students and our colleagues. Conference attendees will discover how to learn and share their own students’ stories and how to use the power of storytelling and narrative in their own work. Finally, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the film and national tour.

Presented by: **Charlene S. Gibson**, Professor/Co-Creator and Associate Producer, *No Greater Odds*/ Faculty Initiatives Coordinator, CSN
James R. McCoy, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, CSN /Co-Creator and Executive Producer, *No Greater Odds*

E2

Location: NSE 224

DACA/Undocumented Resources of Nevada State

There are many resources and opportunities for DACA/Undocumented students to gain access to a college education at Nevada State College. With the current status of DACA, many students are concerned about having the means to further their education beyond high school. This presentation will cover financial resources and opportunities available for students. Two important financial resources are the Non-federal Student Aid form through the Financial Aid Office and TheDream.US National Scholarship. Nevada State is one of the many partner colleges of TheDream.US national program offering full-tuition for recipients who meet DACA or TPS eligible requirements. Opportunities that are available for students include programs and activities through the Office of Community Engagement and Diversity Initiatives. One highlighted program was a summer workshop for students to learn about scholarships and the admissions process of Nevada State. CEDI strives to network with departments on and off campus, such as GEAR UP, to offer additional workshops and activities for our students, ensuring they are able to take advantage of everything that is available to them.

Presented by: **Brandi Bruno**, Recruiter for first year students, NSC
Vincent Nava, Program Coordinator, Office of Community Engagement and Diversity Initiatives, NSC

E3

Location: NSE 214

Apply NSHE: A System Approach to College Access

In this session, attendees will hear about the latest updates involving Nevada's College Application Month efforts as well as plans for future programs. We will also cover the newest effort, Apply NSHE! This will be an opportunity for participants to get involved with the planning of future events. They should bring their best ideas because we want to hear them! We also want feedback on current practices so we all can learn by sharing experiences.

Examples of other topics to be covered will be what to promote with students, information on larger, multi-state efforts, and plans to incorporate fit and match for juniors and resources for transfer students.

Presented by: **Janet Stake**, Academic and Student Affairs Officer, NSHE
Chad Gregorius, HS Counselor Specialist, CCSD
Kristine Shay, Executive Director of Admissions, UNLV
Yvonne Hicks, Magnet Recruitment Counselor, West Career and Technical Academy

E4

Location: NSE 213

Librarian/Faculty Collaboration for Diversity!

We will present a successful partnership of an eLearning Librarian in an online class (EDU 280: Valuing Cultural Diversity). We will show assignment requirements of selecting diverse books for students' lesson plans, how students utilized the class librarian to choose their books, and how the librarian component was assessed.

The intended outcomes of our presentation and what participants will gain are as follows:

- Participants will comprehend how a faculty-librarian collaboration can take place through one detailed example.
- Participants will recognize what an embedded online librarian does and how it can benefit their students.
- Participants will discover the importance of diverse assignments and diverse collaborations (in Education as well as other fields) to give students a variety of experiences and promote inclusion.

Presented by: **Stephanie Espinoza Villamor**, Serves on several committees, including the CSN Diversity Council, and as co-chair of the CSN Women's Alliance
Teri Wyckoff, Education Professor, CSN

11:45 - 12:30 a.m.

Block F Breakout Sessions

F1

Location: NSE 225

Freezing Verification Melt for Low Income Students

While "summer melt" poses a consistent threat to college enrollment, increasing FAFSA verifications have created a new barrier for students: "verification melt." The prevalence of this issue has increased as more low-income students are selected for verification. Due to the nature of Pell eligibility, this process disproportionately affects students of color and first-generation students. This presentation will explain effective methods used to combat "verification melt" among Nevada high school students including early college access education, enhanced family support, and proactive verification interventions.

Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas works to make college a possibility for all students. Many of the practices used can be widely implemented across a variety of platforms at Nevada schools not currently served by the organization. This presentation will discuss creating a college-going culture and providing college access education for students as well as effective methods used to provide support and education to students' families. Lastly, it will address methods that guidance and college counselors can use to proactively help students navigate the verification process to prevent verification melt among Pell eligible students.

Presented by: **Janelle Addis**, College Access Program Advisor, Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas

F2

Location: NSE 224

Barriers of First Generation College Students

There is a shared interest in the success of all students in higher education, regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, etc. With that interest in mind, this presentation looks to address the specific barriers that a particular group of students First Generation College (FGC) Latino students, face in higher education. To better understand the specifics, the barriers that FGC Latino students face, as a group, will be dissected. Dr. Watson Scott Swail's Framework for Student Retention will be introduced as a method for better understanding what factors contribute to student retention, progression, and completion—the overall goal. This framework incorporates cognitive, social, and institutional factors. To conclude, we will offer strategies to address the continued goal of retention, progression, and completion for these students, which in turn encourages the success of all students.

Presented by: **Luis Ortega**, Academic Counselor, CSN
Abigail Johnson, Graduate Student, UNLV

F3

Location: NSE 214

"To STEM or Not to STEM"...That is the Question...

Career planning begins when parents buy their first stethoscope for their toddler. Students are taught early that medical professions have high income, especially in minority households. These students forgo their passion and choose to major in a STEM field. Despite the increased number of students declaring STEM majors, we are witnessing many of them, primarily our underrepresented students, be unsuccessful in their major, especially in science classes. Nevertheless, with the creation of approximately 12 million jobs over the last eight years, much emphasis is on STEM focused fields. This has prompted educators and administrators to create curriculum that focus on math and science programs to prepare students for college. But are we doing a disservice to some of our students that would be better suited for non-traditional STEM fields? How can we nurture these competencies and prepare students for both college and career success? This interactive session will discuss strategies to get students to focus on their areas of strength, choose majors in which they will be successful, and how educators can teach theory but create practical assignments that will prepare our students for life after college.

Presented by: **Sebern Coleman**, Co-Director Faculty Development Center, UNLV
Tremaine Truitt, Professor of Sociology, Los Angeles Valley College

F4

Location: NSE 213

Impacting Youth through Career Exploration

Current scientific research debates the efficacy of career exploration programs for high schoolers, with variables like program structure and length determining outcomes (Hughes & Karp, 2004). The Music Forward Foundation recently expanded its All Access program, a career exploration program based in positive youth development theory that serves underrepresented youth. We use participant data to examine relationships between career exploration programs and youth's interest in future careers and their development of 21st century readiness skills. We explore relationships between program length, individual student interests, access to professionals, and student outcomes. In addition, we provide suggestions on how career exploration programs should be structured and administered both locally and nationally to increase positive outcomes.

Presented by: **Andrea Kenzer Ameen**, Researcher and Nonprofit Professional
Laura Clark, Music Forward Foundation Program Coordinator

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Exhibitor/Sponsor Time

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. GEAR UP Ambassador Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Takeaway Lunch

NSE Rotunda

Final Raffle @ 12:45 p.m. - Must be present to win!!

Thank you for attending CoNVerge!

See you next time!

Award Descriptions

CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: P-12

2019 CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: P-12

The *CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: P-12* recognizes an individual within the P-12 system who works to advance the idea of College eNVy: A Promising Future in Nevada schools. This advocate could be an individual who makes a difference through direct or indirect work with students and works to promote a college-going culture throughout the state of Nevada. This person exudes the passion, professionalism, and perseverance to assist Nevada students in their quest to prepare for, access, and succeed in postsecondary education.

CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: Higher Ed

2019 CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: Higher Ed

The *CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: Higher Ed* recognizes an individual within higher education in Nevada who works with stakeholders - students, parents, families and, schools or institutions of higher learning - to advance the idea of College eNVy: A Promising Future. This advocate could be any individual who makes a difference through direct or indirect work with students and works to promote a college-going culture throughout the state of Nevada. This person exudes the passion, professionalism, and perseverance to assist Nevada Students in their quest to prepare for, access, and succeed in postsecondary education.

CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: Community Partner

2019 CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: Community Partner

The *CoNVerge Nevada Champion Award: Community Partner* recognizes an individual within the business or non-profit community in Nevada who works with stakeholders - students, parents, families, schools or institutions of higher learning - to advance the idea of College eNVy: A Promising Future. This advocate could be an individual who makes a difference through direct or indirect work with students and works to promote a college-going culture throughout the state of Nevada. This individual exudes the passion, professionalism, and perseverance to assist Nevada students in their quest to prepare for, access, and succeed in postsecondary education.

Awards sponsored by: College Access Group

Award Recipients

Lisa Hamrick

I was born and raised in Pahrump with five brothers and sisters. My parents were farmers so I know the true meaning of hard work and good ethics. Growing up, I had a passion for the outdoors as well as sports. I have always loved working with children and the elderly. It is truly a blessing to be able to work with students and assist them in shaping their futures. I cherish spending time with my daughter who graduated with honors from Colorado State University in 2016 with a degree in Chemical and Biological Engineering. Some of my favorite hobbies are traveling, golf, and spending time with family and friends.

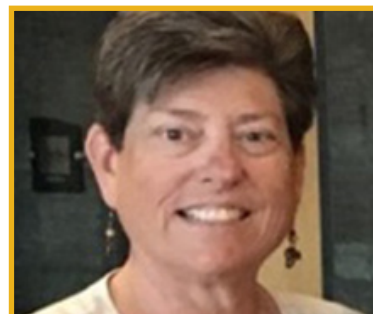
Jacob Park

Jacob Park was born and raised in rural Elko County and has been a Nevada resident for 34 years. He served in the United States Army for nearly seven years. During his transition back to civilian life, Jacob learned a lot about the struggles a veteran can face and became passionate about helping other rural Nevada veterans navigate the processes and succeed in higher education. Jacob has worked at Great Basin College since 2013 and believes all veterans should use the benefits they earned to attend college and better the quality of lives of them and their families. During his time at GBC, Jacob started the Veterans Resource Center and has collaborated with numerous community members and organizations throughout the state to create programs and initiatives that assist veterans during their time at school. One such program is Operation Bravo, which is a paid student veteran internship program made possible through the collaboration of Barrick Gold, the NV Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the NV Office of Science, Innovation & Technology.

Sara Ritner

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Sara graduated with a Bachelor's degree in special and elementary education from Northern Arizona University as a first generation college student. In 1996 she began working for the Clark County School District as a teacher, later earning her Master's degree in educational counseling. After working as a school counselor for many years, she was offered the position as the scholarships director at The Public Education Foundation in 2014 where she served Clark County, working with scholarship donors, students, and organizations to provide and improve college access. Highlights include growing the program with her counterpart to giving over \$1 million each year and awarding scholarships to over 2000 students while on the team. In 2019 she took on a new adventure as the Magnet Program Recruiting Counselor at Del Sol Academy for The Performing Arts. Helping students believe in and achieve their educational dreams has always been a passion.

CoNVerge Nevada
Champion Award:
P-12



CoNVerge Nevada
Champion Award:
Higher Ed

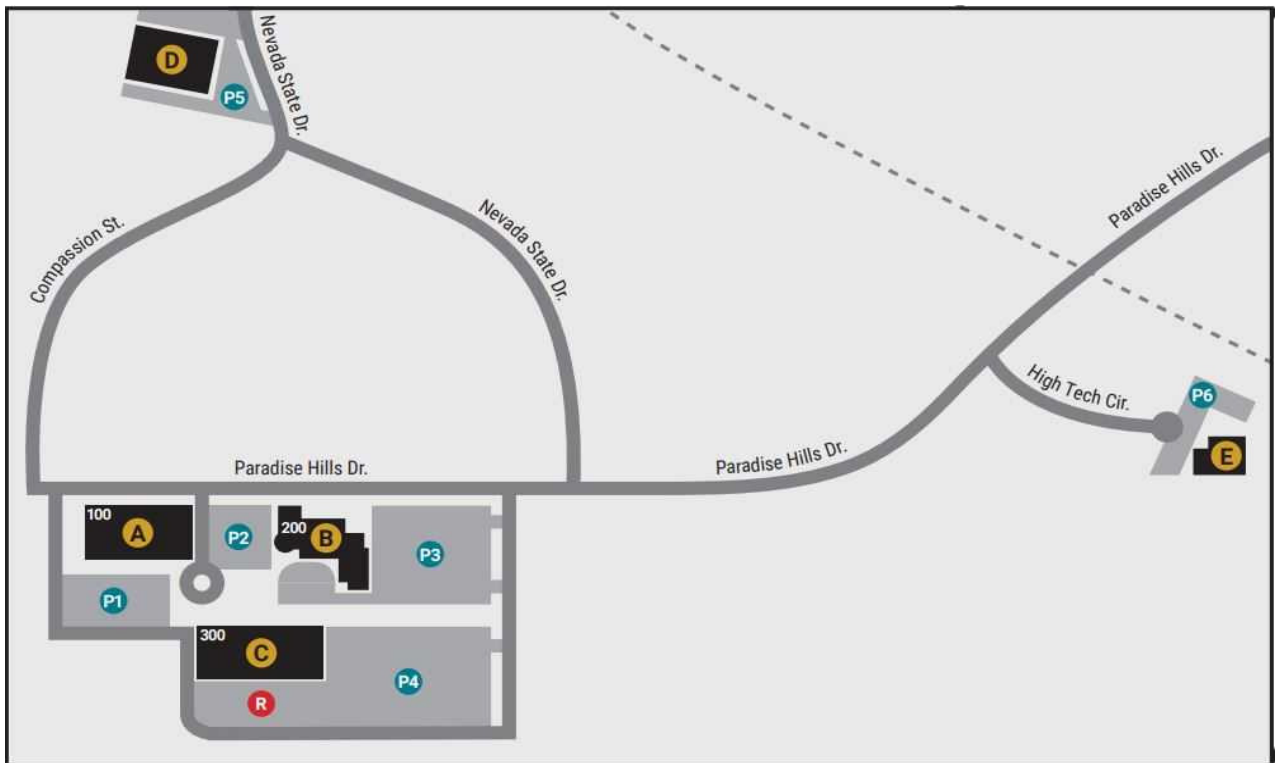
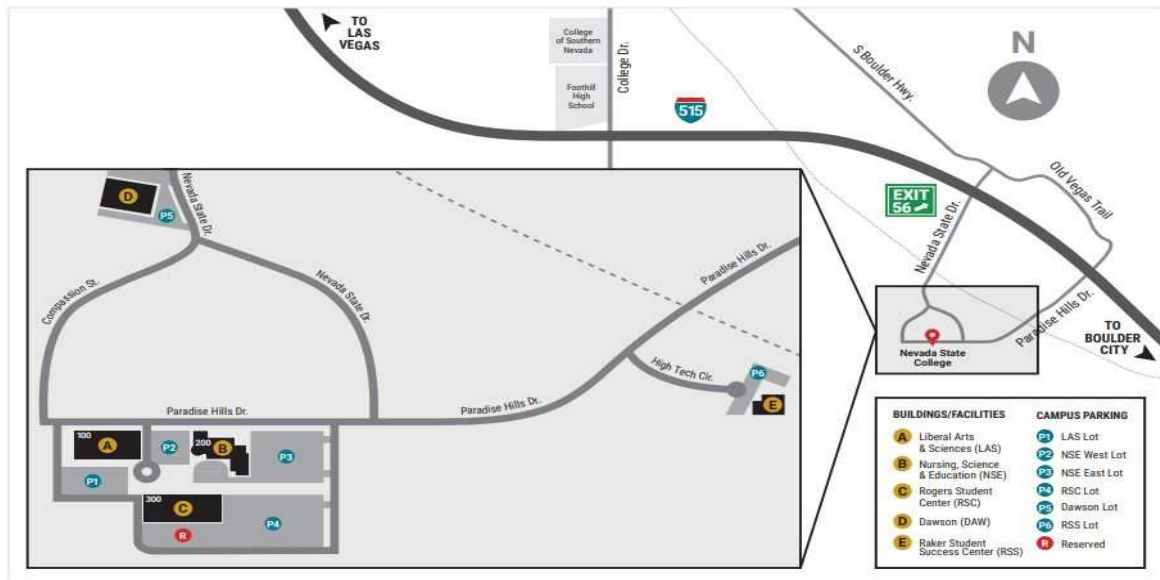


CoNVerge Nevada
Champion Award:
Community Partner



Parking Directions

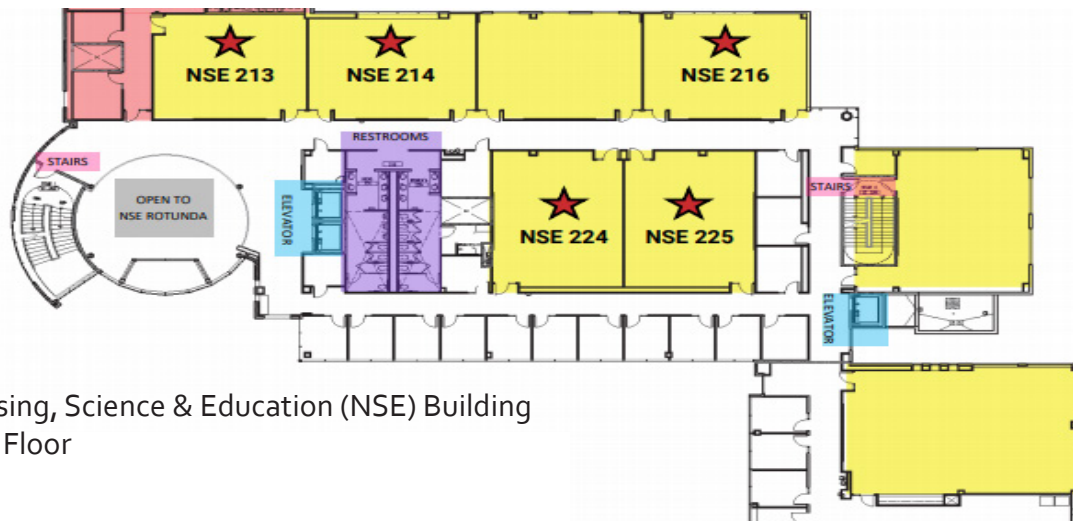
NEVADA STATE COLLEGE MAIN CAMPUS MAP



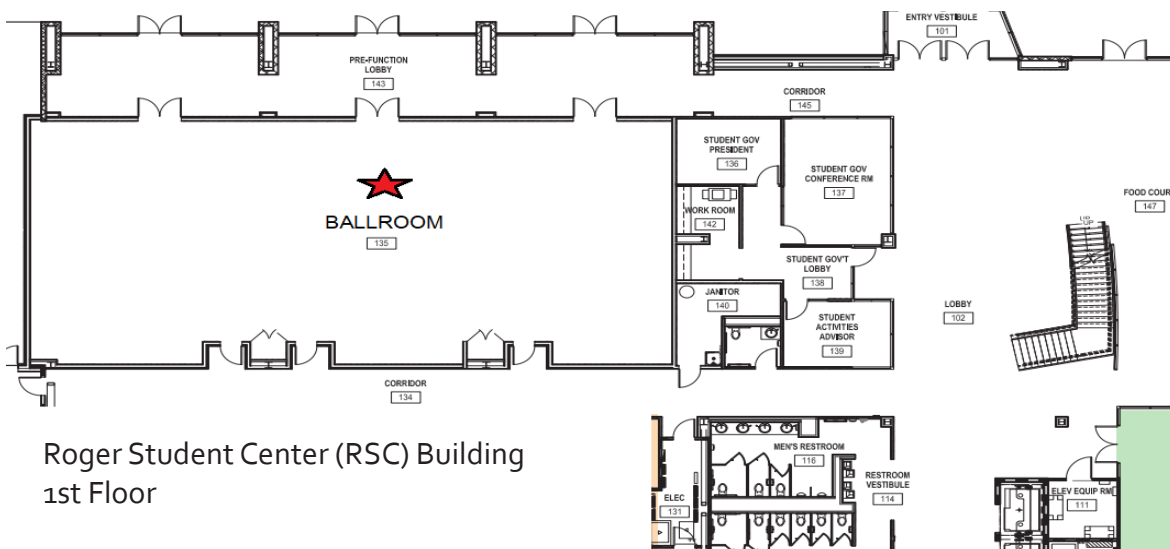
Building Floorplans



Nursing, Science & Education (NSE) Building
1st Floor



Nursing, Science & Education (NSE) Building
2nd Floor



Roger Student Center (RSC) Building
1st Floor

Things To Do/Places To Go

If you come into town early or just find yourself with some free time on your hands before or after the conference, here are some suggested places to visit and a few places to grab a bite to eat. Aside from the phenomenal food and entertainment, Las Vegas has many wonderful activities.

Free & Low-Cost Things To Do

Outdoors

Wetlands

Hours: dawn to dusk

Location: 7050 E. Wetlands Park Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89122

Hoover Dam

Hours: 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.

\$10 parking fee near the visitor center

Location: 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas, on the Nevada-Arizona border. Visit for directions: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/service/directions.html>

Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve

Hours: 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: 350 East Galleria Dr., Henderson, NV 89011

Free Shows on the Strip

Bellagio Fountains

Hours: Mon - Fri: Fountain show every 30 minutes from 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. and every 15 minutes from 8 p.m. – 12 a.m. Sat Fountain show every 30 minutes from 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. and every 15 minutes from 8 p.m. – 12 a.m.

*Schedule may vary. Shows are subject to cancellation due to weather.

Location: 3600 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Mirage Volcano

Hours: 7pm, 8pm, 9pm

Location: 3400 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Treasure Island Show

Location: 3300 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Things To Do/Places To Go

Art

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors

Hours: Varies by date, tickets start at \$15

Location: Bellagio Gallery of Art, 3600 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Marjorie Barrick Museum

Hours: Mon - Fri 9 a.m.-6p.m., Thurs open until 8 p.m., Sat 12 p.m-5 p.m., Admission is free but the museum has voluntary suggested contribution:\$5 for adults, \$2 for children and seniors.

Location: 4505 S Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119

Off the Beaten Path

Neon Museum

Hours: 9 a.m. – 4p.m.

Location: 770 N Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Mob Museum

Hours: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

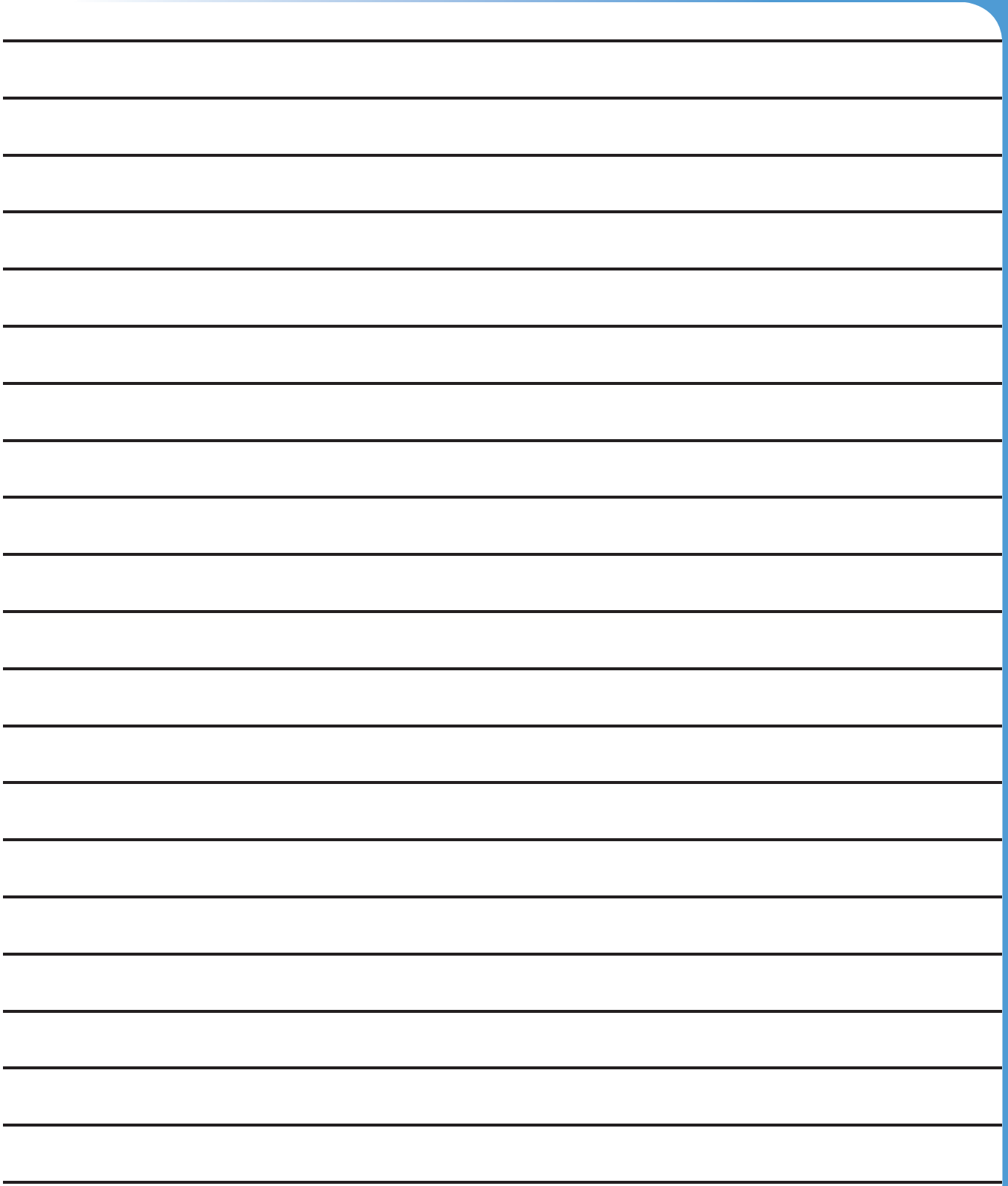
Location: 300 Stewart Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101

Ethel M. Chocolate Factory (Self-guided tour & Cactus Garden)

Hours: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily

Location: 2 Cactus Garden Dr., Henderson, NV 89014



A large blue rounded rectangle with a white interior. The interior is filled with 20 horizontal black lines, providing a space for writing or notes. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the rectangle.

NOTES

***Thank you
for attending the
2019 CoNVerge
Conference!!***

Like and Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

@CoNVerge_Nevada (Twitter)
and
@CoNVergeNV (Facebook)

We want your feedback!!

Please respond to the evaluation survey which will be emailed to all attendees next week.